

LONDON

C.I. - Sunoco. Thurs., May 9, 1940.

The big question in London is - "Will or will not ^{the} Prime Minister ~~Chamberlain~~ resign?" ^{Today} there is a preponderance of rumors that he will - though ~~Chamberlain~~ in Parliament ^{he} ~~today~~ showed no signs of stepping out. ^{Today I mean.} Instead, he battled vigorously, defending his position.

The major event was not in the Commons. It was at Number Ten Downing Street, the historic residence of the British Prime Minister. There, Neville Chamberlain had a conference with the top leaders of the Labor Party - Clement Attlee and Arthur Greenwood. Sitting in on the momentous political talk were Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax. The transactions were very much behind closed doors, but London is agog with reports of what transpired.

Chamberlain, we are told, proposed to the Labor leaders the formation of what they're calling - "an all-party government." He asked them to join in a coalition cabinet. We are told that he made two inquiries. Number One - Would the Laborites be willing to serve in a Cabinet with himself remaining as Prime Minister? Number Two - Would they be willing to serve under the leadership

of some other Prime Minister of the Conservative Party?

To the first question the opposition leaders are said to have answered, "No." They refused to take posts in any Cabinet with Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister.

To Question Number Two, they gave no reply, saying that the problem would have to be decided by the Executive Committee of the Labor Party. That Committee will meet tomorrow, and is expected to make the decision.

The fact that Chamberlain queried the Labor leaders about the possibility of their serving under some other Prime Minister than himself is taken as a clear indication that he is willing to step out. In fact, the London prognostication tonight is that the Prime Minister will soon offer his resignation to King George unless the opposition rescinds its refusal to serve under his leadership.

SUBMARINES

A thundering British success at sea is reported in a brief admiralty statement tonight - a huge lot of shattering destruction by torpedoes. With Nazi Germany busy transporting reinforcements to Norway, the British submarine fleet has a mark to shoot at - and emulate the devastating activity usually associated with German U-boats.

The communique from the London Admiralty declares that British submarines scored six torpedo hits on one convoy of ten German vessels. Three torpedo hits on ~~xxxxxx~~ a second convoy. And two hits on a third. The bulletin does not state what ships were sunk - but with all that torpedo hitting it must have been a catastrophe.

In addition, says the British Admiralty, one ship not under convoy was torpedoed and sunk, while another was driven ashore and destroyed by gunfire and torpedoes. *All reported today.* This communique

is a reverberating reminder that Nazi Germany now ~~ixxxpex~~ has exposed lines of sea communication - to Norway.

~~SILVER~~

ITALY

still
Things in Italy/look ominous for war. True, Mussolini
today kept an absolute silence about possible war plans --
although he made one of his thundering speeches. He told a
crowd of seventy five thousand people that his decision would
be made with acts -- not words.

Meanwhile anti-ally demonstrations staged by students
still continue. And the afternoon press in Rome came out
with threatening statements -- that a million troops are on
Italy's borders -- ready to march at the command of the Duce.

An^{d,}_^ ominous word still keeps coming from Holland.

Today the government forbade all public meetings in the provinces
nearer to Germany. It is explained that this prohibition of
gatherings of people was designed to stop trojan horse activities,
pro-Nazi agitation, the fifth column sort of thing.

RED ARMY

The ~~check~~^{shake}-up in the Red army is more than a mere change of commanders - Timoshenko succeeding Voroshilov. The political Commissar is out, that type of army official peculiar to

Communism. In the Red army hitherto, authority was divided between the military commanders and the political commissars - these latter having the task of seeing that all was done according to Communism. They kept an eye on the doings of the military commanders, and conducted Red propaganda among the troops - to keep the Red flame burning.

There were plenty of stories that the Red army chiefs resented the authority and interference of the political commissars. We heard about this particularly during the Finland War, when Soviet defeats were charged to the butting in of the political boys - the divided command a handicap. In fact, it was the Finland War that now has led to the ousting of the political ~~commissars~~ commissars from their place of high authority. This is stated by the Soviet press, which announces the new change in Red army organization. *The Army Command now has full military authority.*

~~So these are~~ Related casualties of the Finland War -
Commander Voroshilov and the political commissars.

RIFLE

Uncle Sam's

Today a test was made of ~~the Army's~~ [^] new Garand rifle, about which there has been a good deal of dispute.

A target was set up, with a neatly painted bull's eye. The range was three hundred yards. And up stepped the mighty marksman, the dead-shot rifleman; Who was he? If we had been there we would have fallen over laughing. He was a Senator! Yep, the mighty marksman and dead shot rifleman was a United States Senator. ~~How~~
~~is that for a laugh~~

Senator Lundeen of Minnesota picked up a Garand rifle, took aim and blazed away. He shot sixteen times. And ~~he~~ scored --
Senatorial
sixteen bull's eyes! How is that for a [^]surprise?

Just to show it was no accident, the Senator took the competing Johnson semi-automatic and fired eleven shots. Scoring eleven bull's eyes! Well, thirty years ago he used to shoot in army rifle matches, and still holds a reserve officer's commission. So that's how a United States Senator turns out to be a dead shot rifleman.

There was a lot more shooting, but it was done by mere army marksmen, who are supposed to hit bull's eyes. The general verdict seems to have been that the two competing rifles were -- one about as accurate as the other. — *at 300 yards. But the argument about the new Garand still goes on.*

SILVER

The Senate today took a slap at the government silver policy, when the Upper House passed the Townsend Bill which outlaws the government purchase of foreign silver in the future. The Bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

^a
~~The~~ congressional knockout for the silver policy would be a blow to the Pan American plans of the Administration. Mexico, in particular, ~~being~~ benefits by the new deal purchase of silver.

FLORIDA

The Florida election count has been a neck^{-and-}~~to-neck~~ affair
all day. They have been enumerating ballots ever since Tuesday.
The latest returns indicate that Jerry ~~W.~~ Carter will be the
runner-up to contest ~~the~~ nomination for the Senate - not
Bernarr Macfadden, the publisher. According to the Florida law,
if one candidate fails to get an absolute majority, then there's
a run-off election between Number One ~~man~~ and Number Two, ~~man~~
~~SENATOR~~ Senator Charles ~~A.~~ Andrews, running for the Democratic
renomination, ^{is} ~~was~~ Number One. For Number Two position there was
the closest kind of race, and it looked ^{as} if Bernarr Macfadden,
of the Macfadden Publications, would edge his way in. Today,
however, with the count almost complete, the totals are - Carter,
sixty-five thousand; Macfadden, sixty-two thousand. ~~So it looks~~
~~as if Carter will bat it out with Andrews in the run-off.~~

And This will put Dr. Townsend very much in the picture.
Four years ago, Senator Andrews was sent to Washington with the
endorsement of the Doctor and his Townsend Plan. However, ~~as a~~
~~lawmaker~~ the Senator did not battle for the plan for old-age
pensions with enough vigor to please the Doctor. So Townsend
switched and endorsed Jerry ~~W.~~ Carter. And now the run-off will be
between a Townsend man and an ex-Townsend man.

PROHIBITION

A national convention was in session today at Chicago, and a keynote speech was made. The keynoter is expected to get the presidential nomination tomorrow. Don't think that this is rushing the news on Chicago's forthcoming Democratic National

Convention. It's ^{all a} ~~the~~ Prohibition Party ^{matter. Their convention.} ~~which is in session.~~

The keynote speech was made by Roger Babson, the economist.

As a statistician he has a lot to do with dry figures. ^{And,} As a politician he's dryer ^{still.} ~~than that.~~ In his oration today, he stated that the Prohibition Party is the only possible salvation of the nation. Tomorrow they're going to nominate him for the presidency. He'll run, but it will be just a lot of exercise, working up a thirst.

HOPSON

Today a New York Grand Jury handed down an indictment against Howard C. Hopson, former head of the Associated Gas and Electric system -- a billion dollar utilities empire. The indictment phrases the charge in these words:- "unlawful profits in excess of twenty million dollars!" Eighteen counts of mail fraud and one of conspiracy.

The story is related of how Howard C. Hopson learned the arts of stock promotion in the utilities field when he was an employee of the New York State Public Service Commission. In Nineteen Twenty-Two, he gained control of Associated Gas and Electric for a few hundred thousand dollars, mostly borrowed..At that time the Company owned about seven million dollars' worth of utilities property.

In the years that followed, Hopson ran it into a giant system with combined assets of a billion, three ~~xx~~ hundred million dollars. Two hundred subsidiary companies and three hundred thousand investors. The big period of expansion was between Nineteen Twenty-Six and Nineteen Thirty-One, when Associated sold nine hundred million dollars' worth of its securities to the public.

Today's indictment charges that Hopson had the connivance of

two lawyers and a banker connected with Associated. The scheme, as described, was to persuade various member companies of the system to enter into devious transactions, which were for Hopson's ^{personal} benefit.

Government attorneys stated today that this was the first time that ~~xx~~ lawyers and a banker have ever been indicted for preparing the set-up of an alleged fraud.

Conviction on all the charges made, would render each defendant liable to a maximum term of ninety-two years in prison.

The name of Adonis is familiar in Greek mythology. Also -- in current crime investigations in New York. Joe Adonis is charged with being a lord of underworld racketeering. There has been a nationwide search for him, and today he surrendered.

The not at all mythological Adonis is accused in connection with one of those weird episodes in the dark realm of crime. The story relates that one, Isidore Wapinsky, borrowed some money from Gang Boss Adonis, with the promise of a large profit. The profits failed to materialize. Whereupon Adonis felt he had been swindled. So the gang kidnapped Wapinsky, and held him for ransom -- ransom which his family paid. In addition, Wapinsky was badly beaten, so badly that he died a week after he was turned loose.

The weirdest angle of the case tells of an underworld trial -- gangland court in session. It is related that after the death of Wapinsky, there seemed to be some doubt in racket-land as to whether all had been according to ^{underworld} Hoyle -- gangster ethics. Did the failure to return profits constitute a just reason for the kidnapping and fatal beating? A mock trial was held, a sort of gunman kangaroo court. They even had a mobster judge presiding. We are not told what the underworld court decision was, but the prosecutor says he knows the identity of the judge. *And now the central figure has surrendered -- Adonis. -- without Verme*

DOG

At the jail in Little Falls, New York, they have a prison pooch whose name is Sport - and Sport is every inch a faithful dog.

He pal^led up with two convicts named Fred Smith and Rudolph

Jadlowski. *Last Monday Fred and Rudolph*
~~Sport was always with them, wagging his tail, and~~
~~looking for a pat on the head.~~

~~On Monday the two convicts~~ felt the urge of freedom,
~~and didn't have any difficulty in making an escape.~~ They were
trusties, so all they had to do was walk away. Sport trotted along
behind them, wagging his tail. Always the faithful dog.

Last night a house was burglarized, and neighbors
said they noticed two suspicious men followed by a mongrel mutt.

The description left no doubt - it was Sport, the faithful dog.

Easy to surmise —
~~So the authorities easily surmised that~~ the robbery had been
committed by Fred and Rudolph.

Today, a deputy sheriff, who was searching for the
fugitives, happened to pass a lunch room. There he saw a dog

sitting at the door - obviously waiting for somebody inside. ~~It~~

Faithful as ever.
It was Sport, ~~the prison mutt.~~ The rest of the story is quickly told.

The deputy sheriff went into the lunch room and nabbed Fred and

Rudolph. He took them back to jail, with Sport trotting along
behind, briskly wagging his tail. ^{Sport getting} ~~So Sport contrived to get~~ his
masters back in ^{to} jail, - the faithful dog!

~~Here's a story which reminds me of another story. Both concern Shakespeare.~~

Here's
The ~~first~~ is an operatic yarn, told by Impresario Fortune ~~and~~
Gallo of the San Carlo Opera Company. The San Carlo troupe is just opening its spring season at the ^{handsome} Center Theatre here in Rockefeller Center. It seems that the Italian ~~opera~~ composer Ardit~~i~~, who wrote the famous Kiss Waltz, was one of those musicians who knew nothing else except music. He was in London at a reception in his honor. And English lady made some reference to Shakespeare.

The maestro asked: "Shakespeare? Who is this Shakespeare?"

One of his pupils nudged him, and whispered:- "Maestro, you know -- Shakespeare who wrote Othello."

To which Ardit~~i~~ replied: "Oh yes, Shakespeare the librettist!"
The only authors the maestro knew about were the ones who wrote operatic librettos.

~~*Ah, but here's*
Well, that reminds me of one that Gene Tunney tells. It actually happened -- right after the controversy that Gene got us into. The argument about the grammar of the famous quotation from Macbeth. "Lay on Macduff," and so on.~~